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Central Intelligence Bulletin

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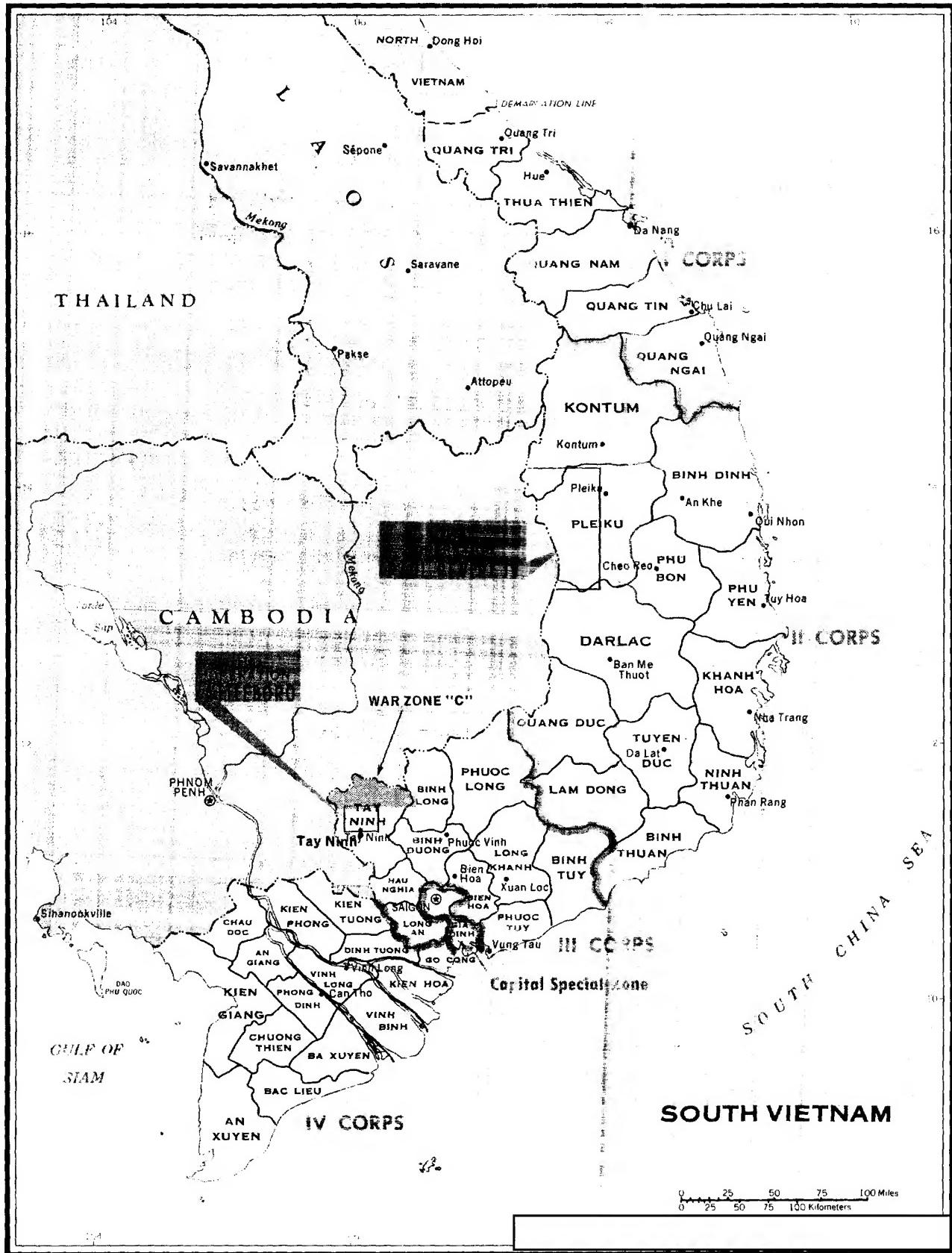
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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EST)

The Military Situation in South Vietnam: US infantrymen clashed with Communist forces in the central highlands on 12 November after one of the heaviest Communist mortar attacks of the war.

Nearly 600 mortar shells were fired at US field positions in southwestern Kontum Province near the Cambodian border on 12 November. A Communist force--estimated at two battalions--then attacked a three-company element of the ten-battalion US Operation PAUL REVERE IV. The Americans retaliated with artillery, air strikes, and ground attacks. Casualties during this encounter, which continued through 13 November, have been light with 32 Communists killed and six Americans reported killed and 21 wounded.

Only scattered fighting has been reported elsewhere in South Vietnam. Units of the 18-battalion allied Operation ATTLEBORO sweeping central Tay Ninh Province near the Communists' War Zone "C" report no significant contact with the enemy. Several additional enemy food and munitions caches have been discovered, however. (Map)

Political Developments in South Vietnam: Y Bham Enuol, leader of the dissident tribal autonomy movement, FULRO, has levied a new set of far-reaching demands on the GVN as a price for FULRO's return to government jurisdiction.

Y Bham is now demanding virtually complete control of all the montagnard peoples under a separate administration with its own army, police, and educational and judicial systems. In addition to the demands

which affect the internal relationships of the tribal people to the GVN, Y Bham has demanded montagnard representation at the next international conference on South Vietnam.

Government officials who deal with montagnard affairs were startled by the tone of Y Bham's letter and the scope of his demands. The new conditions are considered unreasonable and totally unacceptable to the GVN, but government officials seem confident that a compromise can be reached between the government and FULRO. As a counter, GVN officials are considering holding a conference of representatives from all tribes and FULRO to draw up special provisions for the montagnards to be included in the new constitution. Such special constitutional provisions agreed upon by all montagnard peoples would bring greater pressure on Y Bham to accept them.

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Haiti: President Duvalier has foiled an incipient conspiracy to overthrow his regime.

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On 11-12 November Duvalier retired five general staff officers--

and dismissed 12 other officers from lesser commands. The retirement of Colonel Daniel Beauvoir and his brother, Lt. Colonel Jean Beauvoir, removes two of the most influential conspirators.

It is unlikely that other members of the plot will step forward to put the plan--if one still exists--into operation, particularly as long as Duvalier retains the loyalty of the Presidential Guard and the Dessalines Battalion.

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Communist China: Mammoth new Red Guard rallies were staged in Peking on 10 and 11 November, but no new light was cast on the slow-motion struggle among China's leaders.

Mao Tse-tung and Lin Piao reviewed more than two million people on the two days. They were accompanied by most members of the politburo, listed in their usual order. There were no speeches, although at one point Mao shouted "Long life, comrades!" --his first utterance at a large public gathering in many years.

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The exact relationship between Mao and Liu, who was demoted from second to eighth place in the hierarchy in August, remains ambivalent, however.

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Mao could be seen chatting 'smilingly' with Liu Shao-chi for more than 30 minutes. At past Red Guard rallies Mao has pointedly ignored Liu.

Regime pronouncements continue to assert that the drive is still under way against opponents of Mao within the party. On 13 November the New China News Agency broadcast an article from Red Flag which called for united efforts to remove "bourgeois revisionists" in the party. Declaring that they are "staging rebellions against us every day," the article denounced "fence-sitters"--a term which has been interpreted as possibly referring to relatively moderate leaders such as

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Chou En-lai. It said that compromisers were either "counterrevolutionaries or muddleheaded fools.

Premier Chou En-lai, whose standing has come into question in recent weeks, seems to be in good political shape for the moment, however. He rode with Mao in an open car at the 11 November rally and spoke on 12 November at a large meeting held to mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of Sun Yat-sen. Chou made a slashing attack on the Soviet Union, causing most Soviet bloc diplomats attending the meeting to leave in protest.

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